GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Registration & Stamps Department – Ante date stamps scandal - allegations against Sri T.Koteswara Rao, former Sub Registrar and presently Retired as District Registrar (Market Value & Audit), Vijayawada and certain registration officials of Zone-II and Zone-III – disciplinary proceedings initiated – Written Statement of Defence submitted – Regular Enquiry conducted – Report submitted – Show cause notice Issued – Representation received – punishment of 20% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.4,15,286/- imposed – Orders – Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILIANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.1167 Dated:19-11-2015

Read the following:

1. DIG, R&S (MV), O/o the C&IG, R&S, AP., Hyd., (Preliminary Enuqiry Officer) Lr.No.29788/Enqy/95, dt:21-4-1997.
2. C&IG, R&S, AP., Hyd., Procs.No.Vig.2/25922/1995, dt:17-4-2010
3. Govt., Memo.No.1454/Vig.VI(1)/2010-8, dt:31-5-2010.
4. Enquiry Report of DIG, R&S, Guntur (REO) Lr.No.A1/132/2010-2, dt:13-3-2012.
5. Govt., Memo.No.1454/Vig.VI(1)/2010-42, dt:5-12-2013.
6. Representation of charged officer Sri T.Koteswara Rao, former SR, presently Retired as DR dt:22-2-2014.
7. Govt., Lr.No.1454/Vig.II(1)/2010-60, dt:31-7-2015.
8. APPSC Lr.No.779/DC&C/2/2015, dt:7-10-2015.

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ORDER:

Where as in the reference 1st read above, it has been brought to the notice of Government that certain officials of Registration & Stamps Department in Zone-II & Zone-III were involved in ante dated stamps scandal in connection with the registration of documents executed on the stamps sold with ante dates without proper verification and thereby caused loss of Revenue to the State exchequer.

2. And whereas, on the directions of Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, the Preliminary Enquiry officer i.e., the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps (Market Value), Office of the Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad had submitted the report stating that certain registration officials have registered documents executed on the stamps sold with ante dates without proper verification and thereby caused loss of Revenue to the State exchequer in the reference 1st read above.

3. Whereas, on the findings of Preliminary Enquiry Officer, the Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad has framed the following charge against Sri T.Koteswara Rao, former Sub Registrar and present District Registrar (Market Value & Audit), Vijayawada (Retired) among certain other Registration officials.

Charge:

That the said Sri T.Koteswara Rao, while working as SR, Nallapadu, Guntur District during the period 27-5-1995 to 22-2-1996 registered Document Nos.186, 187, 234, 660 to 663, 852, 857, 863, 864, 865, 858, 866 to 868, 875, 876, 881, 882, 883, 888, 889 of 1995 without verifying the date of purchase of stamps sold by A.Ramachandra Rao, Sri Rama Rao, Sri A.S.Reddy and B.B.Reddy, Stamp Vendors, Guntur as required in IG of R&S instructions vide Memo.No.MV1/5000/92, dt:26-7-1993 and

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27-8-1993. In the preliminary enquiry, it was prima facie established that the stamp vendors have sold the stamps used for the above documents with ante date to facilitate the parties to draft documents with dates in order to evade payment of stamp duty on the revised market values which have come into force w.e.f. 1-4-1995. An account of selling stamps with ante dates and Sri T.Koteswara Rao, registering the documents without verifying the date of selling of stamps, Government sustained a loss of Revenue of Rs.4,15,286/-.

4. After receipt of Written Statement of Defence, the Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad had appointed the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Guntur as Regular Enquiry Officer in the matter in the reference 2nd read above. In the reference 4th read above, the Regular Enquiry Officer submitted the report holding the charges held proved against Sri T.Koteswara Rao, former Sub Registrar and presently retired as District Registrar (Market Value & Audit), Vijayawada among certain others. The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Guntur i.e., Inquiring Authority has forwarded the Regular Enquiry Officer report to Government for taking further action in the matter under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

5. Whereas, Government after examining the Regular Enquiry Officer report in the reference 4th read above, and after taking consideration of all the facts including heavy loss caused to State exchequer have provisionally decided to impose a punishment of 100% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss i.e., Rs.4,15,286/- against Sri T.Koteswara Rao, former Sub Registrar and presently retired as District Registrar (Market Value & Audit), Vijayawada for the charge held proved among certain others. Accordingly, a Show Cause Notice has been issued in the reference 5th read abvoe with a direction to show cause as to why the proposed punishment should not be imposed against him.

6. In the reference 6th read above, the Charged Officer Sri T.Koteswara Rao, former Sub Registrar and presently retired as District Registrar (Market Value & Audit), Vijayawada has submitted representation stating mainly among others that the new market values came into force w.e.f. 1.4.1995 and as per the existing Inspector General instructions, and stated that he kept all the documents for which stamps were purchased prior to 1.4.1995 and referred to the Joint Sub-Registrar-I, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Guntur to obtain verification certificates from the Joint Sub-Registrar-I, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Guntur as to the correctness of the date of purchase of stamps. He has further stated that he admitted the documents to registration only after receiving the verification certificates from the Joint Sub-Registrar-I, Registrar Office (Original Branch), Guntur and stated that the same fact was mentioned by the preliminary Enquiry Officer in his report. He has further stated that it is surprised to note that the office copies of these verification certificates have not been found in the office file at Joint Sub Registrar-I, Guntur and stated that he had not violated the Inspector General instructions MV1/5000/92, dt.26.7.93 and 27.8.93. He has further stated that he referred all the documents to District Registrar, Guntur and registered the documents only after obtaining the verification certificates which were issued by B.Yanadaiah, Joint Sub-Registrar-1, Guntur, Assistant District Registrar, Sri K. Babu Rao and Sri N.Devanand. He has finally stated that the authorities punished all these 17 years by deferring his promotions despite court orders and stated that, that itself was a punishment and now imposing penalty of withholding 100% in pension permanently and recovery of loss Rs. 4,15,286/- on him for the irregularities committed by some other persons after 18 years.

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He has further stated that had the enquiry been completed in 2-3 years even though it was proved, he would have gone the punishment then itself. Therefore, he has requested the Governent not to impose withholding of 100% cut in pension and recovery of loss Rs.4,15,286/- on him.

7. Government have examined the matter in light of the Regular Enquriy Officer report taking into consideration of the representation of the Charged Officer Sri T.Koteswara Rao, former Sub Registrar and presently retired as District Registrar (Market Value & Audit), Vijayawada have decided to reduce the proposed punishment of 100% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.4,15,286/- to 20% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.4,15,286/- against Sri T.Koteswara Rao, former Sub Registrar and presently retired as District Registrar (Market Value & Audit), Vijayawada. The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission have also agreed with the proposal of the department in the reference 8th read above. (copy enclosed).

8. Therefore, Government, hereby order to impose a punishment of 20% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.4,15,286/- against the Charged Officer Sri T.Koteswara Rao, former Sub Registrar and presently retired as District Registrar (Market Value & Audit), Vijayawada for registering the documents executed on the stamps sold with ante dates without verification and thereby caused loss of Revenue to the State exchequer.

9. The Director & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad shall take necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

AJEYA KALLAM
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Director & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps,
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
The Individual (w.e) (through the Director & Inspector General,
Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh., Hyderabad with a
request to serve the order and furnish the served copy with dated
acknowledgement to Government for record).

Copy to:
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner,
Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, Hyderabad.
The Principal Secretary,
Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Hyderabad.
The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps,
Vijayawada / Guntur.
The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Guntur / Eluru.
The Central Bureau, Crime Investigation Department,
Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER